

**Iowa Autism Council Meeting
Final Minutes 3-9-16**

Meeting minutes taken by **Beth Buehler-Sapp**

- Present:** James Curry, Erika Hertel, Matthew O'Brien, Jeffrey Jennings, Angela Logsdon, Angela Burke-Boston, Theresa Croonquist, Connie Fanselow, Wendy Trotter, Jenny Phan, Rachel Heiss, Steve Johnson, Tara Underwood-Levin and Beth Buehler-Sapp
- Absent:** Mary Jackson, Sean Casey, Steve Muller, Brandon Reece-Arkland and Becky Harker
- Guests:** Peggy Swails from Child Health Specialty Clinics @ the UIHC RAP Program,
Ruth Webb, Misti Johnson, and Chase Smith from Amerihealth Caritas
Melissa Havig and Kristi Younis from Amerigroup
Steve Johnson from United Health Care
Prakash, parent from West Des Moines
- Zoom:** Frank Kohler, Alyson Beytien, Jan Turbes, and Alexis from United Health Care.

The group went around the room and introduced themselves as is the starting practice at every meeting.

Council Members reviewed the draft minutes from the November 10, 2015 meeting. Erika Hertel made a motion to approve the minutes and James Curry seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

Initial discussion centered around billing codes for services. There is a code of H2032 which represents the 15 minute functional behavior assessment. The code of H0032 for functional behavior assessment requires supervision with a BCBA, child, and staff member present at the same time and cannot be billed at the same time as the direct service is going on. Steve Johnson from United Health Care will take this back to the company and get this fixed.

Continuation of Services – The group talked about stop dates expiring due to the recent changeover of the Medicaid system. The current expenditures submitted should be paid for December, January, February, and March. Bills that come in on April 1st or later will be reauthorized for payment by all three providers due to the lag time created by the Medicaid redesign process. Also, all three providers were told to admit to service without prior authorization during this time due to the void/timelag caused by the redesign process.

Ruth Webb from Amerihealth Caritas said that for anybody who has had something expire or will be expiring should have this taken care of soon.

James Curry asked if there were procedures to submit prior to April 1st. The answer is - Can't. Once we reach April 1st, providers should be able to start submitting requests for reimbursement. Connie Fanselow suggested that providers stagger the submissions of their claims during the first week of April rather than everyone trying to submit all of their claims on April 1st. They can't all get processed on the same day.

Evelyn Horton from the Homestead asked if Amerigroup had a form for resubmitting billing. Kristi Younis From Amerigroup said she will develop one. Evelyn stated that Tri-Care does require that form and process when services are provided by an RBT (Registered Behavior Technician).

Also approximately 1/3 of families are HIPP families and Connie Fanselow will find out through her office what will be required in these cases. Currently requirements are for services through age 21 and/or on a case by case basis as are medically necessary.

The council as a whole would like to endorse the expansion of services beyond age 21 and to look at utilizing more therapeutic services.

All three MCOs present said that they were informed by the state that all eligible kids would have Services covered up to age 21.

There are forms available for billing that have been created within this redesign of Medicaid but there is no access to forms until the April 1st deadline.

There was a father from West Des Moines who was a guest at the meeting (which is open to the public) and he has a 13 year old son who has autism and is beginning to experience more educational difficulties.

There was a meeting scheduled for February 18, 2016 to discuss the BCBA Education Grant. This meeting was rescheduled to April 5, 2016. The content for this meeting will be to discuss the following features of the BCBA Education Grant:

- Developing Administrative Rules
- Developing an RFP
- Preference will be given to Iowa residents.
- \$10,000 a year per applicant
- 20-25 applicants to spend \$250,000.00
- Program length is up to legislative appropriation bill
- If program drop-out, applicant will pay back year 1
- Briarcliff will be continuing their program.

All RFP's are posted on the state's website. Information will be dispersed so that all interested persons would get it. Ideally, information regarding how to apply would be sent to the Iowa Autism Council so council can forward to anyone who requests the information.

Wendy talked about the annual National Autism Leadership Collaborative (NALC) Summit which Wendy, Angela, Jan, and Peggy attended in November. This was held in Columbus, Ohio. The focus of the collaborative is how to work within your state toward making a collective impact to improve services for individuals and families with ASD. The NALC group developed a tool to assist states in working toward collective impact. The goal is to integrate with the state plan.

Matt O'Brien asked, "Couldn't we just send a letter of explanation, not lobbying, to the legislature to let them know about the BCBA programming issues?" This could be tricky as a letter may be misconstrued as lobbying rather than informing.

Steve Johnson surmised the following: New clients as of April 1st will be easier to process. Existing clients, authorizations/reauthorizations will need more sorting through to make determinations.

All 3 MCOs agreed that they should be able to process their determination within 7 days.

If folks have questions they should contact an MCO contact directly. Misti Johnson from Amerihealth Caritas said. Hopefully clients know who their contact is whether for behavioral health or ABA specifics.

Authorizations for ABA services should be processed in 6 months time unless the state says otherwise.

The question was asked of the three providers, "Will telehealth services be covered?" All three providers said that telehealth services would be covered by their organization.

Due to the number of persons with waivers (mostly kids) there will be double case managers reviewing

requests for services for the first 6 months of the changeover in order to get claims processed and minimize errors.

James mentioned that MCOs have different rates and naturally providers are wanting to work with providers paying the best rates. "Will this affect services for some clients?" Implied rate disparity could steer clients toward certain providers.

Jenny Phan asked, "For MCOs, is there a cap on how many hours a family can get ABA services paid for?" This depends on what entity is paying for the services. The ASP program does place a cap on this.

Autism Support Program (ASP) updates:

For ASP applications, Peggys Swails said, "The RAP program is still using the prior DHS application."

As of April 1st all applications will go to Connie Fanselow at DHS and she will talk to parents to help assign MCOs and put parents in contact with the MCOs.

In January there were 15 new applications with 4 of these approved and 1 in March with treatment plan approved.

For the ASP program they are showing significant usage of the funds, enrollment has increased, and funding is being spent. It would be good to encourage parents using this program to send a note of thanks to the legislature.

Looking at the recent history of ASP applications in March of 2015 there were 7 applications denied for over income.

Insurance Mandate Bill – Did not make it out of congress, they will not vote on this this year. It appears the committee members had incorrect information that perhaps impacted their decision. For example, the incorrect perception that the ASP fund provides coverage for services, but in reality, it only applies to some of the population seeking services. ASP applicants must be at 400% of poverty level or greater which does not make this available for all. There are 3,000 families that might get coverage provided if the insurance mandate bill passed.

Angela Logsdon told the group what you have to do to effectively be heard. Angela went to the Senate with her story and then congress. The Senate then passed what she was asking for.

Day on the Hill – Lots of parents conversing with legislators. It's necessary to get the facts to them. There was a South Carolina Mom who took her child with autism to meetings with her every day. This created a personal connection that was very effective.

Previously Senator Daryl Beall and Representative Dave Heaton were very supportive of legislation involving the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

Wendy reminded the group that Grassroots efforts by parents and families have often proven to be successful. Lobbyists can be effective but they are not free.

Nominations for new Co-Chairs of the council: Rachel Heiss nominated Matt O'Brien and James Curry as co-chairs and Jan Turbes seconded the nomination(s). The council voted as a group with no nays and no abstentions. Motion passed to fill the two co-chair positions.

Angela Logsdon stated, "It is important to keep the strategic plan in front of us." Council Members agree to make this a standing agenda item.

Matt O'Brien stated, "We all need a good sense of the breadth of ABA services."

Let's work on the education of Legislators regarding the ASP (Autism Support Program). Erika Hertel said, "Let's include the chart regarding ASP. Let's also try to partner with the Autism Society of Iowa to get the word out.

Evelyn Horton suggested we learn what is being recommended and any changes to be suggested.

Let's identify legislators who would be receptive to our goals.

Council Members continue to agree that the autism population in Iowa would be better served if we had a higher age limit for the ASP; one that mirrors the Medicaid age of up to 21.

Angela suggested we find out who is on the appropriations committee so we can do some contacting. Someone suggested Ken Riser who is a Cedar Rapids/Marion area representative.

Friday March 2nd is the 2nd funnel day for legislators to add to existing appropriations and establish need.

Our visitor Prakash said he is looking for a way to get the ideas out there. He would like to see the following:

- Full-time daycare for older kids with disabilities.
- Job Training programs for persons with disabilities.

James will explore the legislative website.

Rachel Heiss made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Curry seconded the motion.